and submit it through the concerned external partner along with their project proposals.

(b) to (d) Although representations have been received apprehending delays, project proposals, as and when received, are being processed expenditiously in a time bound manner, to prevent any delay.

Strengthening of NBFCs

4201. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to strengthen the Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the NBFCs have urged that provisions of Debt Recovery Tribunal Act and the Securitisation Act available to banks and housing finance companies be extended to NBFCs to protect their assets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the Non-Banking finance Companies (NBFCs) are playing an important role in asset creation particularly in transport sector and the RBI is taking steps to further support the non-banking financial companies sector.

(c) and (d) The representatives of NBFCs have been requesting the Reserve Bank for extension of Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) and SARFAESI Act to NBFCs as available to banks and housing finance companies. The matter is being examined in consultation with RBI.

Harassment of customers by private insurance companies

†4202. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that private sector insurance companies harass the consumers while making payments against their claims;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government have issued guidelines to insurance companies in view of aforesaid complaints;

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken against these companies; and

(d) whether Government have constituted any Committee to monitor these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government as well as the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) have been receiving complaints against the insurers, including private insurers, relating to non-settlement or delay in settlement of claims, repudiation of claim/partial settlement of claims etc.

(b) and (c) IRDA which was established to protect the interest of the policy holders, have notified the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Protection of Policyholders' Interests) Regulations, 2001. These regulations stipulate the duties and obligations of the insurers and policy holders in respect of an insurance contract, both at the point of sale and in the event of a claim, and setting up of in-house grievance redressai mechanism in the insurance companies. In addition to this, for grievances relating to the settlement of claims, the consumers could approach the existing institutions like Insurance Ombudsman, IRDA Grievance Cell, Consumers Fora or the Courts.

(d) No, Sir.

Measures to check stagnation in FDI inflow

4203. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a recent analysis the FDI into India during the last few years was stagnating;

(b) whether the basic malaise behind this reported stagnation is a plethora of taxes both by Central and State Governments, varying import duty rates and higher interest on loans; and

(c) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and Foreign Investment Implementation Authority are presently working at cross purposes as also there is multiplicity of bodies for approvals of investment proposals and if so whether Government would merge all these into a single body?